

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 091270

FOLLOWING SENT PARIS FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 21 APR 75:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 091270

FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PLO REQUEST FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER
DESIGNATION AT UNESCO

REF: PARIS 9385

1. DEMARCHE RETURNS CONTAIN VARYING DEGREES OF OPPOSITION TO PLO MOVE FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS AT UNESCO, AND VERIFY THAT STAND OF EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF EXBD WILL BE DETERMINED AT EC-9 MEETING IN DUBLIN NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 22. EVEN CONCERTED EFFORT BY US WITH WEOS AND OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS APPARENTLY WOULD NOT BLOCK TUNISIAN INITIATIVE; AND LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL TACTICS ALSO APPEAR TO OFFER LITTLE HOPE OF PREVENTING INCREASED STATUS FOR PLO AT UNESCO.

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2. AS FOR SUGGESTIONS IN REFTTEL THAT PLO MIGHT SEEK AN

EXBD RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE DG TO "TAKE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO INSURE COOPERATION WITH THE PLO IN UNESCO ACTIVITIES", WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS REAL POSSIBILITY. WHILE IF TRUE IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN RESOLUTION ON PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS, OUR CLEAR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO HAVE THE EXBD TAKE NO ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE PLO.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING EXBD ACTION WHICH COULD BE SEEN IN U.S. CONGRESS AS FURTHER POLITICALIZATION OF UNESCO, RATHER THAN HOPED FOR PROGRESS IN UNDOING GENERAL CONFERENCE MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL, USDEL MAY WISH TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH PLO DESIRE FOR MENTION OR ENHANCED STATUS COULD BE MET WITHOUT SPECIFIC ACTION BY EXBD. FOR EXAMPLE, IF DG WISHES IN COURSE OF GENERAL REMARKS TO EXBD TO REFER TO HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH MEMBER STATES AND, IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, WITH PLO, THIS MIGHT TO SOME DEGREE OBIVIATE NEED FOR ANY RESOLUTION BY EXBD OR AT LEAST PROVIDE BASIS FOR MAKING SUCH ARGUMENT IN QUIET WAY IF SUCH PROPOSAL PRESENTED. USDEL MAY HAVE ITS OWN SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO DEFLECT EXBD RESOLUTION ON PLO BUT IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO BE SEEN TO BE MOUNTING A CAMPAIGN. RESULTS OF OUR SOUNDINGS ON OBSERVER STATUS MOVE CLEARLY INDICATE THAT SUCH CAMPAIGN WOULD FAIL AND SUCCESSFUL PLO MOVE IN FACE OF ACTIVE US OPPOSITION WOULD CREATE MORE ATTENTION THAN IS DESIRABLE. FURTHERMORE, IN ABSENCE OF ANY SIGN OF ISRAELI INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM, WE SEE NO STRONG NEED TO SHOW THE FLAG IN A LOSING CAUSE.

4. USDEL COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
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